

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3438
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000
PLIGHT OF TELECOM SECTOR
BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that India is far behind the other countries in telecom sector; and
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to bring India in a comparative position of other countries ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (b) The teledensity of India as on 31.7.2000 was 2.99 per 100 persons including Mobile phones which is less than the world average of 14.26 as per World Telecommunication Development Report 1999. However, the Government is continuing to improve the teledensity in the country by making telephone available on demand progressively by 31st March 2002 and sustain it thereafter. As per the New Telecom Policy 1999 telephone density of the country is expected to improve to 7 per 100 persons by the year 2005 and 15 by the year 2010.

Steps in this regard include opening of new exchanges, introduction of new technologies and speedy implementation of New Telecom Policy.